

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

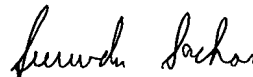
By the present Preliminary Amendment the specification is amended to correct minor informalities. The changes made to the specification are not deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

Further, the claims are amended without prejudice to no longer recite any improper multiple dependencies. The subject matter of the canceled multiple dependencies is also now set forth in new dependent claims 12-19.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000

Fax: (703) 413 -2220

GJM/SNS:sjh

I:\ATTY\SNS\273180US-PR.DOC

Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Surinder Sachar
Registration No. 34,423
Attorneys of Record